

May 24, 1999.

Docket Management Branch (HFA-305), Food & Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061

Rockville, Maryland 20852

8425 '99 JUN -1 A10:42

Re: Docket # 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing  
and Handling of Food"

To Whom It May Concern:

The FDA should retain the current labeling law, the current terminology of "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation", and use the radura symbol on all irradiated whole foods. Regarding the issue of labeling, in its initial petition, the FDA concluded that irradiation was a "material fact" about the processing of a food, and thus should be disclosed. Most fruits and vegetables have nutrient losses that are not obvious or expected by the consumer therefore labeling should remain.

I believe the label should be large enough to be readily visible to the consumer. For displaying whole foods such as produce, a prominent informational display should be used. "Cold pasteurization" and "electronic pasteurization" are misleading terms and should not be used.

Because of the newness of the technology and the need to assess the public health effects of widespread use of irradiated foods, I believe that the FDA's labeling requirement should not be permitted to expire.

98N 1038

I am a retired educator and believe in having people informed especially about food ingested.

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